

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 AF-10 DRC-01 EUR-25 DODE-00 /127 W

----- 060101

R 111335Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0172

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IN US

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA HEARING

REF: STATE 46715

1. WE HAVE SEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT SO FAR ON MARCH 6 TESTIMONY BY WEISS BEFORE THE HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE. PRESS COVERAGE WAS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE AND CRITICAL -- WITH PARTICULAR CRITICAL EMPHASIS ON NEW THEME THAT THE US MEANT TO HAVE ITS BASE REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE SOVIETS DID.

2. M.V. KAMATH, IN A FRONT PAGE MARCH 8 TIMES OF INDIA ARTICLE, SAID WEISS ADMITTED THE US WOULD HAVE GONE AHEAD WITH THE DIEGO GARCIA EXPANISON EVEIN IF THERE WAS NO SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN "WITHOUT QUALIFICATION". THIS BLOWS SKY HIGH, KAMATH SAID, US PRETNETION THAT DIEGO GARCIA IS BEING EXPANDED BECAUSE THE SOVIETS ARE INCREASING SHIPDAYS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ARTICLE WAS HEADLINED "US CLAIMS PAKISTAN'S SUPPORT ON BASE ISSUE" WHICH KAMATH SAID WAS A NEW DEVELOPMENT.

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3. THE LEAD PARAGRAPH OF WARREN UNNA'S PIECE IN THE STATESMAN SAID WEISS MADE CLEAR THE US MILITARY PLANS TO HOLD ONTO ITS NEW BASE EVEN IF A SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT SHOULD EVER BE ACHIEVED FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN. IN THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, KRISHAN BHATIA SAID WEISS INDICATED SOME INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES' PROTEST OVER DIEGO GARCIA WERE PRO FORMA. BHATIA ADDED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SEEMED TO HAVE THE IMPRESSION, SUGGESTED IN DESPATCHES FROM ITS EMBASSY, THAT WHAT THE GOI SAID PUBLICLY AIMED TO PACIFY PARLIAMENT AND THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY WAS NOT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE LIMITED US PRESENCE.

4. MARCH 11 NATIONAL HERALD EDITORIAL SAID US PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE BASE ARE OBVIOUSLY DOUBLE TALK. IT WAS ADMITTED THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE THE US WOULD HAVE GONE AHEAD WITH DIEGO GARCIA. A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SPOKE OF THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE OCEAN AS A DIPOMATIC LEVER AND A DETERENT TO OTHERS. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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